

REMARKS:

In the foregoing amendments, the abstract of the disclosure was amended to correct typographical and idiomatic errors and to reduce its size to less than 150 words. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the abstract of the disclosure, which was set forth in the outstanding Office action. In addition, claim 3 was rewritten as an independent claim, and claim 7 was added to the application. The limitations set forth in claim 7 correspond to the description in applicant's specification disclosure at page 9, line 16-19. Claims 1-7 are presently pending in the application. An allowance of these claims is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claims 3-6 were not rejected over prior art. The Official action objected to these claims as containing allowable subject matter, and stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the foregoing amendments, claim 3 was rewritten as an independent claim including all the limitations of original claim 1 from which it depended. For these reasons, a formal allowance of claim 3 and claim 4 that depends thereon is respectfully requested.

The Official action set forth a single rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,162,146 of Hoefling. The rejection is set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Official action. Applicant

respectfully submits that the teachings of Hoefling do not contemplate or suggest the invention as set forth in claims 1 and 2 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103 for at least the following reasons.

Fig. 2 of Hoefling allegedly proposes a feature corresponding to Fig. 2 of the present invention. However, according to Fig. 2 of Hoefling, the clutch pressure is controlled in a range less than 60% of the pedal position, and the brake pressure is controlled in a range more than 60% of the pedal position. Namely, in Hoefling, the clutch pressure and the brake pressure are controlled at different timings or ranges, but are not controlled simultaneously. For this reason, applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Hoefling cannot contemplate or suggest the arrangement that "the controller simultaneously controls the engine revolutions, the engaging force of the forward clutch and reverse clutch and the braking force of the brake, on the basis of the operation amount detected by the operation amount detection sensor" that is required in present claim 1. Therefore, applicant respectfully request that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

In addition, applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Hoefling do not contemplate or suggest the limitations set forth in claim 2. The Official action referred to Hoefling at column 3, line 38, to column 4, line 19, as suggesting the limitations set forth in claim 2. This portion of Hoefling discusses engine speed as shown in Fig. 3, not the vehicle speed as required in claim 2. Engine speed and vehicle speed are different parameters and

measurements, and applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would not substitute one for the other. In addition, claim 1 from which claim 2 depends uses engine speed. Thus, claim 2 sets forth an additional sensor measurement, which is not contemplated or suggested by the teachings of Hoefling. For these reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Hoefling do not contemplate or suggest the invention set forth in present claim 2. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 2.

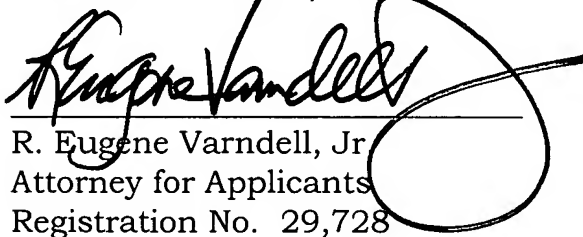
The teachings of Hoefling also do not contemplate or suggest the arrangements set forth in new claim 7, wherein when the operation amount detected by the operation amount detection sensor exceeds a specified operation amount, the brake pressure is gradually decreased and the clutch pressure and the engine revolutions are gradually increased, in accordance with the detected operation amount. For this reason, applicant respectfully submits the claim 7 is patently distinguishable from the teachings of Hoefling.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Hoefling cannot contemplate or suggest the inventions defined in claims 1, 2, and 7 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 35 U.S.C. §103. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of these claims, and formally allow claims 1, 2, and 7, together with allowable claims 3-6.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Official action mailed September 9, 2005. While it is believed that all the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, should the examiner have any comments or questions, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned at the below listed number to resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee therefor, as well as any other fees which become due, may be charged to our deposit account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,
POSZ LAW GROUP, PLC


R. Eugene Varndell, Jr.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 29,728

Atty. Case No. VX042601
12040 South Lakes Drive
Suite 101
Reston, Virginia 20191
(703) 707-9110

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